

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0903

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: REINFORCED NAC MEETING

REF: STATE 32442

1. AT LUNCH FEBRUARY 19, SEVERAL PERMREPS SAID THEY HAD WORD THAT THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES WOULD NOT BE MEETING WITH EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS FEBRUARY 27, THAT THE U.S. NOW WANTED EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS TO COME TO WASHINGTON JUST BEFORE THE 27TH FOR A FOLLOW-UP MEETING TO THE ENERGY CONFERENCE, AND THAT THUS THE FEBRUARY 28 DATE FOR THE REINFORCED NAC OBVIOUSLY HAD TO BE DELAYED A FEW WEEKS.

2. BELGIAN PERMREP DE STAERCKE THOUGHT IT COULD BE INOPPORTUNE, GIVEN THE DISARRAY OF THE NINE FOLLOWING THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR A REINFORCED NAC MEETING FEBRUARY 28. THE ALLIANCE SHOULD NOT RISK A FLOP; THE PROBLEMS OF THE NINE SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT INTO THE FIFTEEN, MANY POLITICAL DIRECTORS MIGHT BE ABSENT AND THOSE PRESENT WOULD LIKELY SAY NOTHING BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE ISSUES AS BETWEEN THE 8 AND THE FRENCH AS RESULT OF THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE.

3. FRENCH PERMREP DE ROSE SAID FRANCE WOULD NOT BOYCOTT A NAC MEETING WITH POLITICAL DIRECTORS, AND MIGHT POSSIBLY SEND SOMEONE FROM PARIS IF THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION WARRANTED IT. OTHERWISE, ONLY DE ROSE WOULD ATTEND.

4. I POINTED OUT THAT A REINFORCED NAC MEETING WAS NOT DEPENDENT
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UPON A MEETING BETWEEN U.S. REPRESENTATIVES AND THE EC-NINE POLITICAL DIRECTORS; WE HAD ONLY SUGGESTED THAT U.S. REPS NOT CROSS THE ATLANTIC TWICE IN A WEEK. IF THE MEETING WITH THE NINE WAS OFF, AND I HAD HEARD SO, AND IF THAT WAS THE ONLY PROBLEM I

WOULD ASSUME WE COULD STILL GO AHEAD WITH ALLIANCE PLANS.

5. SYG LUNS SAID HE MIGHT PROPOSE A DATE AND AGENDA FOR THE REINFORCED

NAC MEETING IN THE COUNCIL FEBRUARY 20 AFTER FIRST CHECKING WITH RUMSFELD. BUT HE NEEDED TO KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON. DOES THE U.S. WANT A MEETING ON THE 28TH? ARE TWO AMERICANS COMING? WHO?

6. COMMENT: IF WASHINGTON SO WISHES, WE COULD PROBABLY GET THINGS BACK ON THE TRACK FOR THE 28TH, BUT I WOULD HAVE TO KNOW BY OPENING OF BUSINESS FEBRUARY 20 WHAT THE U.S. WANTS.

7. SUBSEQUENT TO DRAFTING THIS, DAVIGNON TELEPHONED ME TO PRESENT WHAT I CONSIDER PERSUASIVE REASONS, RELATING TO THE EC-EIGHT VERSUS FRANCE AND THE EC-NINE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S., FOR POSTPONING THE REINFORCED NAC MEETING UNTIL LATE MARCH. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS, BUT I WILL STILL NEED INFORMATION REQUESTED ABOVE ON WASHINGTON THINKING AND DEVELOPMENTS FOR USE FEBRUARY 20 IF POSSIBLE. IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE BY FEBRUARY 20, LIKELY RESULT IS THAT FEBRUARY 28 REINFORCED NAC WILL BE MOVED TO LATE MARCH, WHICH, FROM THIS END, SEEMS NOT A BAD IDEA.
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